JULY/AUGUST, 1980

Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

BALDWIN BONANZA TEN

THE PLANT SALE canny buyers wait for all year, the Baldwin Bonanza, sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, was held May 4. Los Voluntarias members with the direction of this year's Bonanza chairman, Carol (Mrs. Gary) Overturf, and Arboretum superintendent, John Provine, again gathered a wide assortment of plants to appeal to the acquisitive instincts of any plant collector, from the casual gardener to the most discriminating specialist.

Those who came to browse found a horticultural smorgasbord offering everything from houseplants and herbs to trees and tree ferns on through orchids, gingers, and grapes. Although plants in the Arboretum introductions section can be found at some well-stocked nurseries, a few such as the 'Mood Indigo' cultivar of the lily of the Nile *(Agapanthus)* are available only at the Baldwin Bonanza. This plant was hybridized at the Arboretum and has not yet been released to the trade. The exceptionally deep blue flowers of 'Mood Indigo' attracted the attention of so many shoppers that supplies of this unique variety were soon exhausted.

Collectors specializing in a number of different plant genera also found noteworthy plants to add to their collections. For the cycad enthusiast there were 14 different species, most of which are seldom seen outside arboreta and botanic gardens. Bromeliad collectors were especially fortunate this year because the sale offerings included many species of the colorful flowering and foliage types of these epiphytes.

At a preview party Saturday evening, 2,300 Foundation members and their guests made advance selections among the plants while enjoying refreshments and waiting for the door prize drawings.

Long lines of plant shoppers waited in the early morning sunshine for the opening of the tenth annual Baldwin Bonanza in May.

BALDWIN BONANZA TEN

(Left) Carol (Mrs. Gary) Overturf had her hands full as chairman of the Baldwin Bonanza.

(Lower left) California Arboretum Foundation membership chairman, Diane (Mrs. Varick) Martin, told the Arboretum story to many prospective members during the Bonanza.

(Center) Jean (Mrs. John B. Jr.) Atkinson found ready customers for shade plants in the booth she managed.

(Lower right) The unusual flowers of the pocketbook plant (Calceolaria herbeohybrida) *held by houseplant booth chairman, Marilyn (Mrs. John) Llewellyn, attracted attention.*

(Upper left) The annual Baldwin Bonanza is a favorite source of plants introduced to the area by the Arboretum.

(Upper right) Raffle ticket sellers in matched tuxedos and top hats were highly visible at the Preview Party. From left: Alix (Mrs. Carl) Hagstrom, James Curry, Gloria (Mrs. Dennis) Buchanan, raffle chairman Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman, and Karen King.

(Center) Bargains in bromeliads tempt this shopper as he compares the Tillandsia seleriana *in his right hand and* T. polystachya *in his left with the filmy* T. tectorum *on the table.*

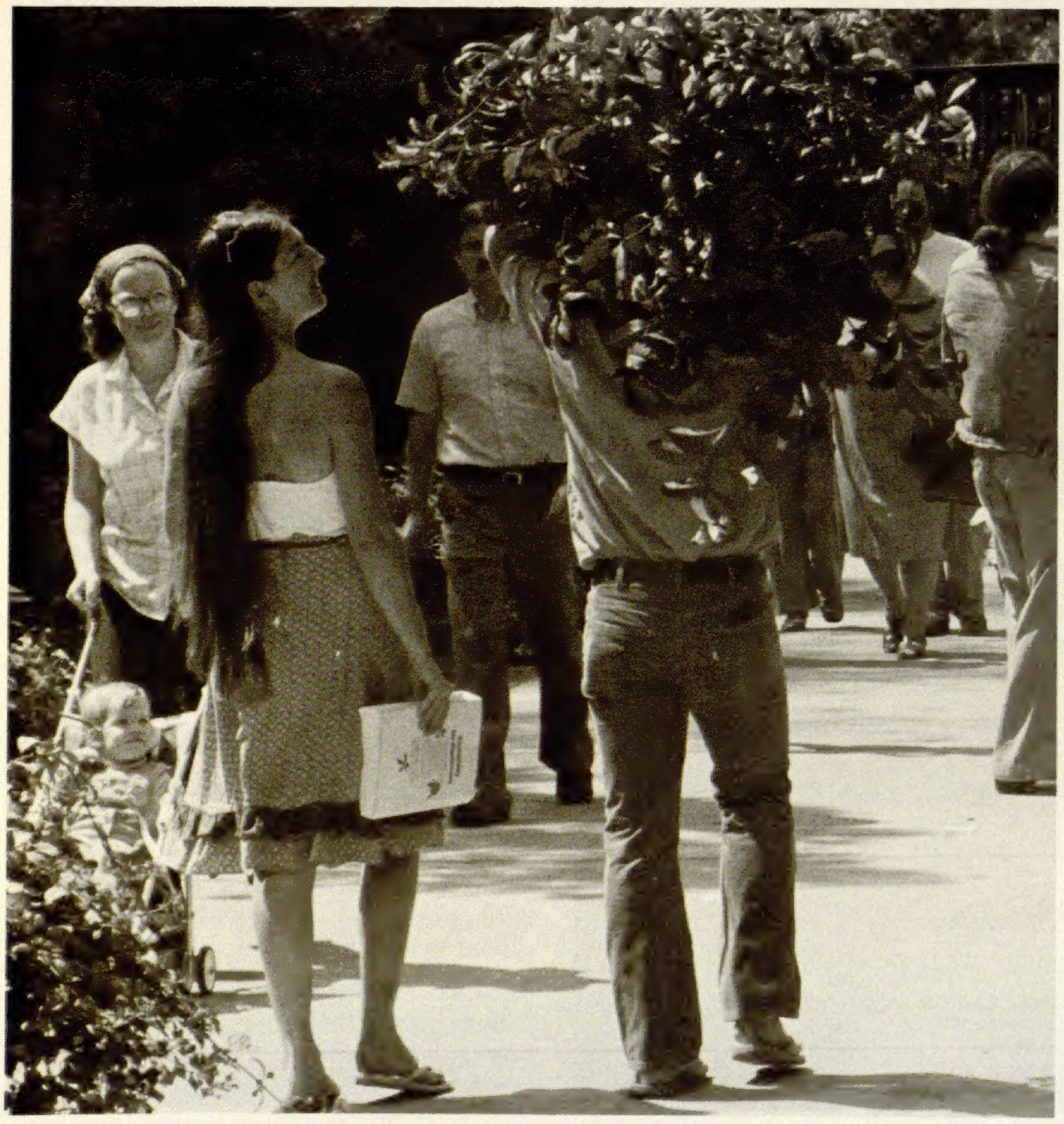
(Lower right) Joyce (Mrs. John) Bauer, co-chairman of Baldwin Bonanza Ten, will be chairman of the fund raising event next year.

(Right) Boy Scouts from Rosemead were ready to lend helping hands and wheels to plant purchasers.

(Lower left) a large waxflower (Hoya carnosa) *makes its new owner the center of attention.*

(Lower right) This young woman carries away a few of the thousands of plants sold at Baldwin Bonanza Ten.

(Photos by William Aplin)



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Members of the Arboretum guayule research team examine seedlings at a conference held in May. From left: Dr. Himayat Naqvi, Karen Toukdarian, Dr. Indira Mehta, Dr. George Hanson.

GUAYULE GRANT ADDITION

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION has awarded an additional $161,226 to the California Arboretum Foundation for the continuation of a research program on guayule being carried out at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The first grant was made in 1977.

The Arboretum research team's findings were included in the program of the third International Conference on Guayule held recently at Pasadena.

In the future the project, under the direction of Dr. George P. Hanson of the Arboretum research division, will deal primarily with chemical stimulation of rubber synthesis and breeding for improved rubber yield in guayule.

Preliminary tests of growth regulation chemicals by Dr. Henry Yokoyama of the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Chemistry Laboratory and co-investigator on the project with Dr. Hanson have shown that bioregulators applied to guayule can dramatically increase the rubber content of the shrub. Further studies must be carried out to determine if the response is one of cell growth in addition to an increased synthesis of rubber within already formed cells.

In the breeding program, Dr. Hanson and his associates have already produced hybrid guayule specimens with rubber percentages significantly higher than the 8 percent contained in the standard variety. The NSF grant will enable the research team to make further selections and hybridizations to achieve yields up to the 15 percent necessary for commercial utilization of guayule rubber.

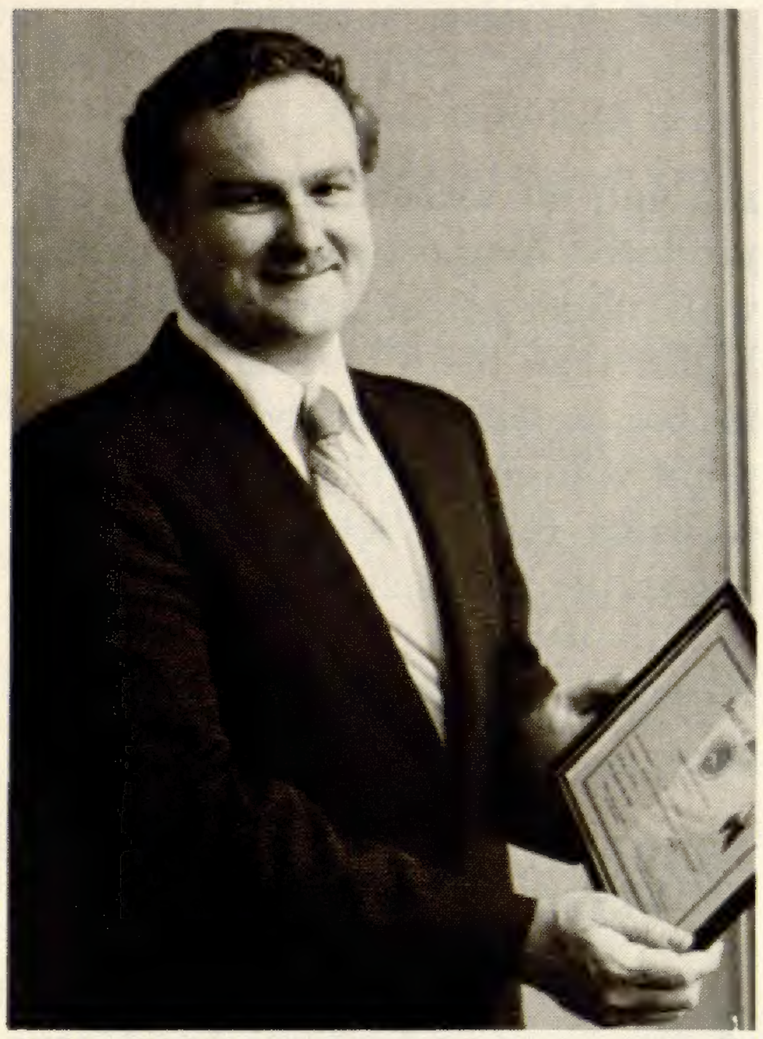
GARDEN CLUB AWARD TO PROVINE

JOHN PROVINE, superintendent at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, received an award of merit from the California Garden Clubs, Inc. at the group's annual awards presentation in April. Only three of these special awards were given out statewide to persons whose outstanding achievements and abilities served to advance garden club goals in the past year.

The many interrelated objectives of the organization include cooperation with other agencies to promote public interest in horticulture and landscape design. It is in this area that Mr. Provine, not an official garden club member, made his greatest contribution in 1979. As part of his work at the Arboretum, he serves as Department co-ordinator for all club meetings and plant society shows. In the course of each year, Mr. Provine arranges the scheduling of Arboretum facilities for the 36 plant societies, garden clubs, and civic organizations that meet here regularly. In addition, he is responsible for the smooth operation of the 20 major plant society flower shows and various special events sponsored by the California Arboretum Foun-

dation such as the Baldwin Bonanza, the Queen Anne Frolic, and Fall Garden Fair.

Away from his office, Mr. Provine promotes amateur gardening with



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John Provine

the same dedication and enthusiasm. Each month he speaks at several different garden clubs and community groups, sharing his knowledge and love of plants. These informal talks are in addition to the lectures he gives as part of the Arboretum's program of Sunday morning talks.

Mr. Provine clearly does, as the award proclaims, "an outstanding job of advancing horticultural knowledge among garden club members and the community."

ARCO GRANT

ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY recently approved an unrestricted $25,000 grant to the California Arboretum Foundation for use at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The money, to be dispensed over a five-year period, will be used to help support the Arboretum's ongoing education and public service programs.

A tight budget since passage of Proposition 13 has forced the Department to rely increasingly on its support organizations and public-spirited corporations such as Arco for funding of capital projects and for the botanically oriented educational and service programs needed by the people of Los Angeles County.

The grant illustrates Arco's appreciation of the need within the community for the horticultural and gardening programs offered by the Arboretum. Projects include new informational plant labels appearing around the Arboretum grounds and interpretive centers that help visitors understand the significance of the plants they are observing. The grant also makes possible the continuation of many programs such as the Arbor Day trees for schools, informational leaflets and brochures, and horticultural demonstrations and displays.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS have been made in the Native Plants of California and the Southwest exhibit located on the south slope of Tallac Knoll. California Conservation Corps crews built a series of cairns along the footpath and planted a recently received collection of *Dudleya,* commonly called live forevers, among the stones. The raised planting sites simulate the natural habitat of these succulents and protect them from the root rot to which they are very susceptible.

Many species of *Dudleya* have extremely restricted ranges in the southwest – often endemic to a single California island or canyon. The collection contains representatives of 14 of the widely varied plant forms that make this genus so interesting. Four species in the Arboretum's collection, *D. traskiae, D. cymosa, D. stolonifera,* and *D. densiflora,* are on the rare and endangered plant list compiled by the California Native Plant Society. *D. pulverulenta, D. injuns,* and *D. brittonii* are of the more spectacular type.

Home gardeners can grow some of the more common species if they are aware of the cultural require-

William Aplin

These Dudleya farinosa, *like the other* Dudleya *species in the Arboretum collection, have adapted well to the rock cairns on Tallac Knoll.*

ments of these members of the crassula family. *Dudleya* must be planted where they will receive very little, if any, summer irrigation because they are completely dormant during hot weather. Their seeds will not germinate and cuttings will not take root until the cool season.

Dudleya virens makes a good border plant or groundcover for dry, sunny places in the home garden because its sprawling branches spread and root easily. Several other species that adapt to domestication, *D. hassei, D. greenei, D. edulis,* and *D. lanceolata,* are also occasionally available through native plant societies.

SEMINAR ON VOLUNTEERS

With the deepening budgetary pinch, many public cultural institutions are finding that volunteers can make the difference between eliminating services and continuing to offer a wide range of public programs. But Florence (Mrs. Edward) Suidmak of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation felt that an understanding of the best way to recruit, train and keep the support of these volunteers is often lacking. So she organized a seminar April 18 at South Coast Botanic Garden led by women with experience in each of these three aspects of volunteer programs. More than 60 persons representing major cultural and educational institutions attended.

The first speaker, Charlotte Lobb of the South Bay Volunteer Bureau, is a newspaper columnist who has been instrumental in recruiting an estimated 5,000 volunteers for area organizations. She urged listeners to search out new sources of volunteers. A good field is the corporate community where men and women, both retired and still employed, have a great deal of expertise and dedication to offer a volunteer organization. Volunteers are badly needed, she added, but they have needs of their own.

Terry Lee, coordinator of volunteers at Huntington Library, Art Gallery, and Gardens in San Marino, said that to help satisfy these needs volunteers must be given a clear understanding of what contributions are expected of them. She emphasized the importance of expressing appreciation to volunteers. "By saying 'please' and 'thank you' as often as possible, a genuine bond of affection builds between paid staff and volunteer staff that will lead to a commitment to what they are both trying to accomplish," she said.

Florence Suidmak

Gail Dorph, an educational expert who trains museum docents for the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, said she plans training programs for volunteer guides that will give them enough information to deal effectively with many different groups. "If you train volunteers for only one age or interest group you can limit them unnecessarily," she said. "Then they won't continue to grow in your organization."

Besides the information and experience the group shared, Mrs. Suidmak arranged a salad bar luncheon and tram tours of the garden for seminar participants.

Fall Garden Fair

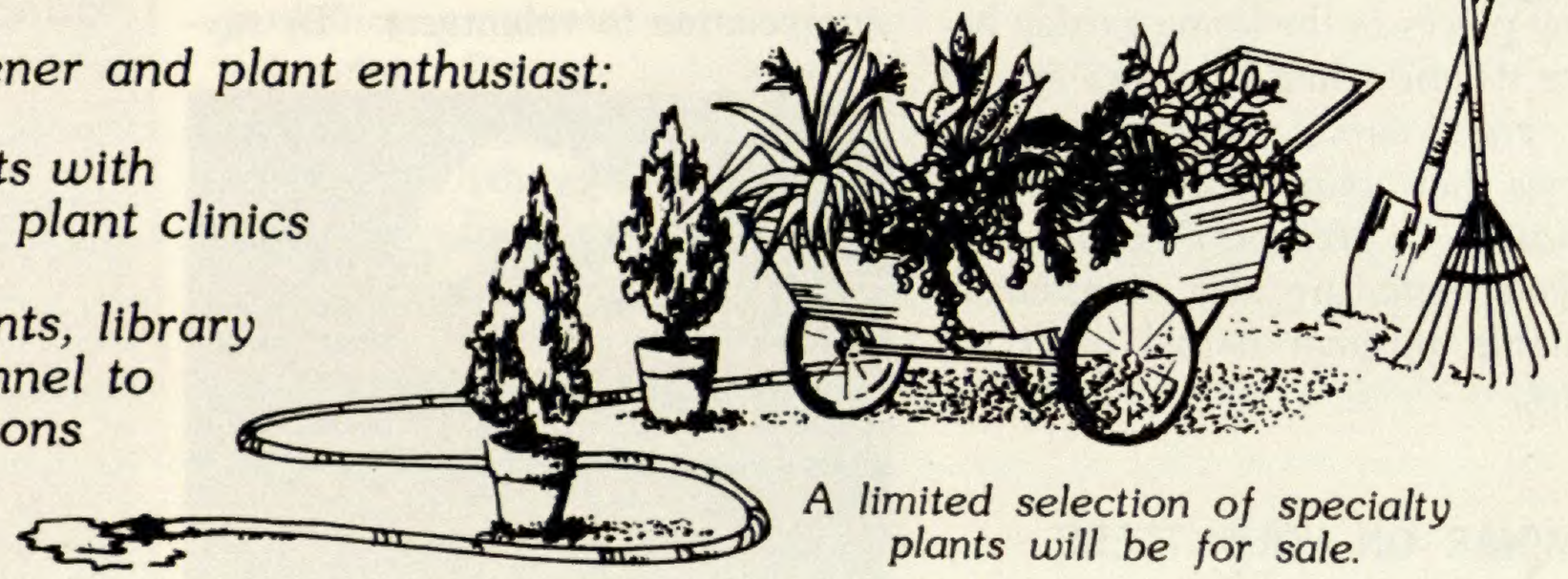
at the

LOS ANGELES STATE and COUNTY ARBORETUM
SATURDAY and SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20-21, 1980

For the home gardener and plant enthusiast:

Plant society exhibits with demonstrations and plant clinics

Staff plant consultants, library and research personnel to answer your questions



A limited selection of specialty plants will be for sale.

Presented by

California Arboretum Foundation & Los Angeles State and County Arboretum

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

JULY 3 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Old Time 4th of July Picnic, featuring Burch Mann's American Folk Ballet.*
JULY 4 — 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Dance demonstrations by the American Folk Ballet.*
JULY 5 — 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Concert on the Lawn, featuring Burch Mann's American Folk Ballet.*
JULY 6 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Dance demonstrations—1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Arts, crafts, and antique shows.*
JULY 4, 5, 6 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
Cactus and Succulent Society of America.**
JULY 12, 13 — Saturday 12 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Begonia Show
San Gabriel Begonia Society**
JULY 19, 20 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fern Show
Los Angeles International Fern Society**
JULY 20 — 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Walk*
Plants of the Lagoon
Gary Cromwell, biologist
JULY 27 — 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Walk*
Asiatic/North American Section
Dr. Gary Wallace, botanist
JULY 27 — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Les Brown Concert
Arcadia Chamber of Commerce**
AUGUST 3 — 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Walk*
Historical Buildings
Sandra Snider, historian

CALENDAR

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 7 — 2 p.m.
Sunday Afternoon Talk*
"Bromeliads"
Tim Lorman, horticulturist
SEPTEMBER 13, 14—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society**
SEPTEMBER 20, 21—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fall Garden Fair
SEPTEMBER 21 — 2 p.m.
Sunday Afternoon Talk*
"Growing Winter Annuals"
Ron Call, education assistant
SEPTEMBER 27, 28—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Akebono Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society**
*Sponsored by Calif. Arboretum Foundation
**Co-sponsored by Calif. Arboretum Foundation

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

JULY 6 — 2 p.m.
Fern Culture
Jan Cameron, gardening instructor**
JULY 13 — 2 p.m.
"Tropical Gardens and Flowers"
Lorin Gillogly, entomologist**
JULY 20 — 2 p.m.
"America Sings"—program of show tunes, Pat and Adrian Rosate, and group**
JULY 27 — 2 p.m.
Lecture, slides—A Glimpse of the Amazon
Dr. Mildred Mathias & Leslie Walker**
AUGUST 2, 3 — Saturday 12 to 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bromeliad Show
South Bay Bromeliad Associates**
AUGUST 10 — 2 p.m.
"Iris Culture"
Duncan Eader, So. Calif. Iris Society**
AUGUST 16, 17 — Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 to 5 p.m.
Dahlia Show
South Coast Dahlia Society**
SEPTEMBER 14 — 2 p.m.
Sunday Afternoon Talk*
Plant Propagation
Edward Hartnagel, ass't. superintendent
*Sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation
**Co-sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

JULY 6 — 2:30 p.m.
Adult Swing Band
Pasadena City College**
JULY 13 — 2:30 p.m.
"Sweet Adelines"
Verdugo Hills Chapter**
SEPTEMBER 14 — 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Walk*
Trees of Descanso Gardens
George Lewis, superintendent
*Sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild
**Co-sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild